

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 11, 2006. Claims 61 and 79 have been amended herein. Claims 61-65, 67-70, 72-83, 85-89 and 91-93 are now pending.

Claim 61 stands rejected under Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yamahara in view of Maekawa, Jones and Mochizuki. This 4-way Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

First, claim 61 requires

Claim 61 requires an antiglare layer having *all* of (a) **a haze value of at least 40**, (b) **image clarity of at least 15**, and (c) both an internal scattering layer and scattering surface. In other words, the invention of claim 61 is capable of realizing a combination of both high haze values and high image clarity. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this.

Fig. A attached hereto is a graph showing a relationship between haze value and transmitted image clarity (0.5 mm comb). In attached Fig. A, the points (■) of the antiglare layer of example embodiments of this invention, and the points (♦) of conventional antiglare layers were obtained through experiments by the inventor. As can be seen from Fig. A, conventional antiglare layers suffer from the trade-off relationship between the haze value and the value of transmitted image clarity. On the other hand, antiglare layers according to example embodiments of this invention can realize a combination of high haze values as well as high values of transmitted image clarity. Antiglare layers according to certain example embodiments of this invention having an internal scattering layer and a scattering surface provide for haze values of at least 40 and transmitted image clarity of at least 15. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest such an antiglare layer capable of realizing a combination of haze of at least 40 and transmitted image clarity of at least 15 as called for in claim 61.

Yamahara fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid features, and the Office Action admits this.

Mochizuki discloses a diffusing plate having a haze value above 40. However, Mochizuki fails to disclose or suggest such a plate also having a value of transmitted image clarity of at least 15 as measured with an image clarity meter in which a width of an optical comb is 0.5 mm as called for in claim 61. The diffusing plate in example 1 is a resin layer, that in example 2 is an etching glass, that in example 3 is acrylic resin including titanium oxide particles (the particles are used to obtain a scattering surface – not an internal scattering, which is typical in the art), and that in example 4 is a polarizing plate of which the outer surface is roughened by a heat roller. Mochizuki fails to disclose or suggest a diffusing plate including both an internal scattering layer and a scattering surface. Thus, like the other prior art, it will be appreciated that Mochizuki fails to disclose or suggest an antiglare layer which uses an internal scattering layer and a scattering surface in a manner so as to be able to realize a combination of a haze value of at least 40 and a transmitted image clarity of at least 15 as called for claim 61.

Maekawa also fails to disclose or suggest a haze value of at least 40 and a transmitted image clarity of at least 15 as called for claim 61. Maekawa discloses a diffusing layer having a scattering surface in Fig. 1. However, in contrast with the allegations made in the Office Action, Maekawa fails to disclose or suggest an internal scattering layer. Although Maekawa discloses particles in the layer, these particles are used to form a scattering surface and the antiglare layer does not include an internal scattering layer (this is a typical way in the art to crease a scattering surface). Again, Maekawa fails to disclose or suggest an antiglare layer capable of realizing the combination of haze values of at least 40 and transmitted image clarity of at least 15 as called for

in claim 61. Moreover, the Office Action's allegation that Maekawa discloses internal scattering is incorrect.

Jones discloses an internal scattering layer (see the refractive index difference of 0.05 to 0.15). The diffusing layer of Jones is an internal diffusing layer (col. 2, lines 49-64). Jones solves certain problems by specifically locating the diffusing layer inside of the LCD between the LC and a substrate. Thus, the diffusing layer of Jones does not have a scattering surface. Moreover, Jones (like the other cited art) fails to disclose or suggest an antiglare layer capable of realizing the combination of haze values of at least 40 and transmitted image clarity of at least 15 as called for in claim 61.

In view of the above, it will be appreciated that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest an antiglare layer capable of realizing the combination of haze values of at least 40 and transmitted image clarity of at least 15 as called for in claim 61. Moreover, the cited art also fails to disclose or suggest an antiglare layer having both an internal scattering layer and scattering surface as called for in claim 61. These features are not disclosed or suggest in the cited art, and are patentable.

The antiglare layer of claim 61 has an internal scattering layer and a scattering surface, and can obtain image clarity of at least 15, so that a good balance between the specular reflection characteristic for light incident thereupon from the viewer side (high haze value) and the specular transmission characteristic for light transmitted therethrough (high value of transmitted image clarity) can be attained (e.g., see paragraph 0027 of the instant specification). Nothing in the cited art suggests such an antiglare layer with such a good balance between specular reflection characteristic for light incident thereupon from the viewer side (high haze value) and specular transmission characteristic for light transmitted therethrough (high value of transmitted image

clarity). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of claim 61 is not met by the cited art. Hindsight, clearly used in making the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 61, is not permitted.

The article entitled "Surface Treatment Technology for High Definition LCDs" also evidences the non-obviousness of the invention of claim 61. Nitto Denko (originating company of this article) is one of the largest companies in the World providing optical films for LCDs. This article published 2 years *after* the instant invention and is not prior art, and thus it is improper for the Examiner to rely on it as he did in the Office Action for an alleged teaching of high haze and image clarity. The reason applicant submits this is to show that Nitto Denko, one of the largest LCD film companies in the World, did not arrive at this concept until some two years after the instant invention was made by applicant, thereby evidencing the inventive nature of the same.

Claim 79 also requires an antiglare layer having *all* of (a) **a haze value of at least 40**, (b) **image clarity of at least 15**, and (c) both an internal scattering layer and scattering surface. In other words, the invention of claim 61 is capable of realizing a combination of both high haze values and high image clarity. As discussed above, the cited art fails to disclose or suggest this.

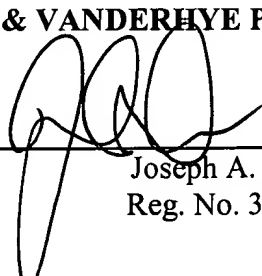
It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

INOUE et al.
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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned over a solid horizontal line.

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